

hand, gradually expanded—mantled over the relentless face of a burning sky, and at last showered down refreshment on a thirsty land.

The good which may result not only to this Province, but to the general cause of truth, should these proposals be *cheerfully* and *alertly* adopted, surpasses all calculation. It would be needless for me now to descant on the subject. If there is really no public spirit in the country, I have already thrown away too much of my time; if there is, let it now be shown; for never was occasion more urgent. If the people of Canada do not *now* rouse themselves, they may indeed have plenty whereon to exist; but to that "righteousness which exalteth a nation," they will have no claim. The farmer may plod over his fields—the merchant may sit drowsy and dull, in his store: but the life, the vigor, the felicities of a prosperous and happy people, will not be seen in the land; the superiority of public management in the United States will bother all hope of competition: America will flourish, while Canada sinks into comparative decay; and another war will not only bring with it waste and destruction, but ignominious defeat.

In the scheme proposed, I will accept of no appointment; but persons acting in it shall have my utmost assistance, and I shall make clear to them every course to be pursued. As soon as matters come to a head, all information collected by me, shall be at the disposal of the Commissioners; and even better consequences may be expected from this popular movement, than any that could have followed from the Parliamentary inquiry, had that been allowed to proceed. It will shew, that though the rights of Parliament may be trifled with, those of the people of Upper Canada are not so easily to be set at defiance.

The Assembly of the lower province, is to petition the British Parliament, as to their trade; your representatives are to petition the Regent, as to their privileges; when I

found my petition set aside and despised, at York, I dispatched one immediately, to be presented to the House of Commons, in England, to call attention there to Canadian affairs. All this will go for little, if something else is not done. You have read in the newspapers, of my scheme having been discountenanced by Ministers at home; you have read of speculations upon making the best bargain with the United States, for these provinces. I know whence all this proceeds: I know what would open the eyes of the people and government at home, to the true value of the Canadas, and put an end to such unnatural—such disgusting surmises; and all this I shall be happy to explain, as soon as explanation can be useful. One thing I am very sure of, that if the people of Canada will only do their duty as honest men, and as brothers, in unity, not only every just claim may be paid by next Christmas, but a foundation may be laid for this province becoming speedily the most flourishing and secure spot on the habitable globe.

ROBERT GOURLAY.

TOWNSHIP MEETING.

Niagara, April 13, 1818—Which day a numerous meeting of the inhabitants of the township of Niagara, having been held at the house of JAMES ROGERS, and DAVID SECORD, Esq., M. P., being called to the chair, the address of Mr. Gourlay, to the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada, dated April 2nd, 1818, was read over, and its whole tenor and sentiments unanimously approved of. In conformity to the recommendations therein contained, the meeting proceeded to elect a representative and clerk, when Robert Hamilton, of Queenston, Esquire, was appointed to fill the former situation, and John Ross, of Niagara, Esquire, the latter. A committee, also, was appointed, to forward the views of the meeting, viz:—Timothy Street, John Hagan, Wm. G. Hepburne, and Robert Moore, Esquires.

Monday, 20th of this present month, was named as a proper day for the meetings of other townships within the district of Niagara, and Monday, 27th, for the meeting of the representatives from the various townships, to be held at SHIPMAN'S tavern, St. Catharines; the committee duly to advertise the same, and take such steps as to them

shall appear good cause.

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